

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board

Meeting Summary

November 14, 2005

Members Present: Alan Bowser, Charlotte Coffield, Korey Hartwich, Robert Hicks, Graciela Jaschek, Jon Lourie, Phillip Olivetti, Victor Salazar, Marilyn Seitz, Debbie Spielberg, Jose Vazquez, Mitch Warren, and Eric Hensal Loyce Grigsby, Kathryn Stevens, Mark Woodard and Jerry Yokoyama

Members Absent: None

Welcome/Introductions

Meeting was called to order by Debbie Spielberg, Vice Chair. Members of the Board, Staff, and Guests were introduced.

Gary Stith introduced Muriel Bowser, new Assistant Director at the Silver Spring Regional Center

Approval of Minutes

Motion: (Olivetti, Seitz) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board adopted the minutes of the October 2005 as amended on page 10 add Jon Lourie as a volunteer to the SSTC Task Force.

Community Comments

Mary Reardon stated that it is still a possibility that the Birchmere may come to Silver Spring. She wanted to know if it would be helpful if citizens advocate for the Birchmere at this point.

There was a community meeting the other night on the Baptist Church site developer's plans to build condos on that site and most people were not happy with the presentation.

Jerry McCoy, President of the Silver Spring Historical Society is publishing a book on downtown Silver Spring and will be out in early December.

Marcie Stickle stated that she wanted to continue the discussion started at the Commercial Economic Development Committee, (CED) regarding the plight of Silver Spring Small Businesses. One key answer to helping them is creating a Heritage Tourism District and Targeted Investment Zone. The materials handed out and for the record is that the CED Committee continue discussion on this issue because we can not turn our backs on Silver Spring small businesses they were here through the revitalization, they are pioneering, independent and they really need our help and we don't want to lose them. Many of the businesses are located in our Silver Spring original Central Business District, (CBD). Montgomery Preservation Inc. will partner with us on this Heritage Tourism District as will Preservation Maryland, and Montgomery Preservation. *(For more details please refer to handouts)*

Bob Colvin stated that he attended two meetings last week the first was on the Bi-County Transitway and the State Highway group will be meeting with our Civic group on Monday, November 21 down at Sligo Avenue and Piney Branch Road. They are seeking input on how it will affect our community for the three different routes. The Civic Group is opposed to anything above ground and we think it should be below ground.

The second meeting I attended was the one with First Baptist Church and there is a height limitation on the east side of Fenton Street of 60 feet the developer now states that he want two towers that would be 94

feet tall and the reception they received was pretty negative from the community and the Minister really put cream all over saying that he will have groups coming in to use the Church and it will be a great thing for the community but I noticed that one resident stated that the Civic Building for these kinds of things. I think the developer stated that he was going to go back and see what he can do, however 60 feet is what we are holding to and otherwise we will fight it.

County Executive Report:

Paul Folkers reported that:

- Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan today presided over a signing ceremony for two bills recently approved by the Montgomery County Council. Bill 24-05 creates a Minority Business Affairs Manager in the Department of Economic Development. Bill 25-05 creates the Office of Consumer Protection. The consumer protection legislation, introduced in July, was spearheaded by Council President Tom Perez and creates the Office of Consumer Protection as a principal office in the Executive Branch of County government. The bill – which takes effect in January 2006 – transfers the division of Consumer Affairs from the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, where it currently is located. The new office will be a stand alone department under the direction of a merit system director.
- A national survey conducted by the Center for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties (NACo) recently named Montgomery County 5th among the top-10 most technologically-advanced, cutting-edge county governments in the United States.
- The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) Division of Operations has launched a new Consolidated Customer Service Call Center that will provide residents with a single phone number to access most DPWT services. The new phone number is 240-777-6000. The Consolidated Customer Service Center will be staffed by information and referral specialists Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- For organizing a public-private partnership to develop the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development (DED) has been recognized by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) with an Honorable Mention in the organization's professional economic development awards.
- County Executive Douglas M. Duncan outlined a plan to expand Montgomery County's efforts to help low-income residents pay for rising home heating costs by doubling the energy tax rebate program and expanding the County's Earned Income Tax Credit program, the nation's first local EITC. Duncan made his announcement at the Silver Spring home of 69-year-old Gloria Lapkoff, a recipient of energy assistance funds. He was joined by County Councilmember Steve Silverman, Health and Human Services Chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services Daryl Plevy and Rev. Rosetta Robinson of Community Ministry of Montgomery County. Duncan's plan would double the energy tax rebate amount, currently \$40, to further assist eligible Montgomery County households in paying their home heating bills. The plan also calls for an additional \$50 credit under the County's Earned Income Tax Credit program. The additional support for these efforts will cost \$1.3 million in local funds.
- County health officials announced that the annual flu vaccination campaign has begun and assured the public that an ample supply of vaccine is expected. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services will hold three flu vaccination clinics for County residents.

- Montgomery County's website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov earned two Digital Government Achievement Awards and an honorable mention at the Best of the Web Awards Ceremony held recently by the Center for Digital Government in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Nominees Sought for Montgomery County's 2006 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards and Children of the Dream Awards; Annual Event Set for January 16th.
- There will be a groundbreaking at Pagoda on Thursday at 12:30 p.m. at the National Park Seminary at Forest Glen.

Commercial and Economic Development, (CED) Committee

Phil Olivetti reported that:

The Committee met on October 19, 2005 7:30PM Silver Spring Regional Center

Attendance: CED Members: Phil Olivetti- Chair; Cris and Mark Bombaugh, Jerry Yokoyama, Debbie Spielberg, Marilyn Seitz, Darien Unger, Jane Holmes, Mitch Warren. Gary Stith - SS Regional Director, Mel Tull - SS Regional Center, Pete McGinnity - County Dept. of Economic Development, Tom Collins – GSSCC Urban District Advisory Com, and Atlanta Online, Jane Redicker – GSSCC, Mary Reardon, Marcie Stickle, and George French – SS Historical Society, Rob Moren – Moren Jewelers, Gene Smith and Pete Jervey - The JEB Companies, David Auerbach – resident

Discussion of the impact of redevelopment on small businesses.

Mel Tull is the main local resource for the business community. He has had bi-lingual assistance and specialized aid in finance, business planning, relocation, plant improvements, and permits etc. Pete McGinnity – Dept. of Economic Development. Discussed lack of time for small business owners to attend meetings, problem of language and cultural difficulties, resistance to Gov. Officials. Stressed need to improve communication and trust and need to adapt to new clientele.

Dept. of Housing Community Affairs did inventory of businesses several years ago but not in real details. Phil inquired about having this inventory updated. Mel pointed out that this would be valuable to have but there is not sufficient admin staff to maintain the database and that DED would like to see an admin position funded / created.

Debbie Spielberg asked about the status of the Maryland Study on Small Business. The study sited some lack of communication, breakdown of perception of benefits, and a unified voice. Also how is it decided who and how much, get County \$100,000 Small Business funds? Gary answered that SS received 80% of the county funds last year. The next deadline is near. Business need to establish how they were financially negatively impacted by the redevelopment.

Tom Collins former Ch of GSSCC, current Ch of the Urban District said the Chamber has numerous informative and networking events for the small businesses. Gazette is very helpful but sometimes in its haste to report news fails to make tell the entire story and sometimes this has unfairly placed a negative light on small business gains.

Jane Redicker – new Ch of GSSCC said the Chamber has 525 members of which 346 have less than 10 employees. She noted that her predecessor, Cris Bombaugh, worked to on-street parking on Georgia and Colesville. Having this parking is a benefit for local businesses esp the small service businesses.

Robert Moren owner of a 40 year old, 3 employees, jewelry store, wanted help in the eastern area of CBD. Small businesses feel slighted – attention and funding goes to “big guys”. Asked for more communication- possible increased use of e-mails. As a small business he is not always

able to break away and cover a meeting or an event so if there was more emails this would keep him and others in the loop more.

Cris Bombaugh stated that we are not done yet with the redevelopment and improving as we progress. Marilyn suggested also encouraging more grassroots level communication to help the small esp. foreign retailer, to feel included and informed.

Marcie Stickle submitted a written proposal that addresses needs of small businesses in SS. Suggestions included a Small Business Merchants Association, a Task Force, a marketing promotion such as an area walking map with stores, parking, parks, and historic locations, Heritage Tourism to promote our historical significance, and an Incubator for start-up endeavors. She suggested personal contact to inform the small businesses of available County support, also return the diagonal street crossing to some intersections.

No vote or action taken

JBG Building on East West Highway- 400 units – retail and residential. This was an update. The SSCAB has gone on record as supporting this project. Already approved by P&PL but going for an amendment because the large grocery store that was planned will not be built. Negotiations failed primarily as a result of costs. Removal of the existing contamination and bedrock is very costly and these must be done in order to provide the needed space. Size of retail to decrease from 45k so to 15k sf. Hope to start construction on Dec. 5, 2005. P& PL Hearing Nov. 3rd.

No vote or action taken.

Concern about adequate parking in CBD – Cris is concerned about residential use of public parking could impact availability for businesses. Darien asked for consideration of increase short term and other creative approaches. Gary suggested that Rick Siebert from the Parking District come to next CED meeting to address issue. Mary Reardon suggested increase use of the VanGo shuttle Gary suggested asking for increase hours from 7Am to 10PM and include Saturdays. Bethesda has expanded hours; As the residential community grows it will be even more important to make it easier to move people in the downtown area and avoid use of cars having to park in garages. This is a budget item and would be helpful to have the full board on record as supporting this increased use – Duncan's budget meetings are usually in December.

Action item – request SSCAB to endorse above expanded hours and make this a priority in our budget submission to Duncan.

Adventist Hospital Building on Arliss and Flower – This development was presented to the CED in September. CED recommended approval of the project to the full Board and SSCAB approved letter supporting this project. However the letter has not been sent. Debbie has received a letter of concern and Jerry provided the background as he has been following this issue. He advised that the letter from the Sligo Branview Civic Association is concerned that they were not notified of this project in advance and had just heard about the matter. No time for input. One concern they had involved the architectural rendering of the façade of the building. Traffic,

parking etc were also concerns. Gary said that P&PL does not decide on the architectural aspects of a building. He suggested that Civic Association discuss concerns with the builder/developer. The CA was meeting with WAH, the property owners and the developer and we should get a better idea of the issues.

The matter has been pulled from the P&PL agenda and will be rescheduled, but no date exists.

Action Item - Committee recommended that the letter that was previously approved by the Board be held pending the outcome of a meeting with WAH CEO and the property owner and that the letter/issue should be discussed at more at the Executive Committee and the next Board meeting.

Summary submitted by Marilyn Seitz

Next meeting: November 16, 2005, 7:30 p.m., Silver Spring Regional Center

Gary Stith gave a brief overview of items of discussion for the next CED meeting agenda as follows:

Next meeting agenda items:

- A representative from Department Housing Community Affairs (DHCA) will talk about condo fees. There have been so many condo projects proposed in downtown and a question was raised about what is the impact in terms of MPDUs and the condo fee requirements. There was legislation by Council this last year and they will explain that.
- Someone from Transit Services is coming to talk about the Van Go. Last year there was a proposal to extend hours of operations for the Van Go. With all the residential development occurring in South Silver Spring it seems that it continues to be something that could be even more important in the coming year because of the people down in that area and the difficulty in walking up to the core area of downtown especially late at night. If the Van Go operated later at night like in Bethesda that would be helpful. This is a big downtown that is cut in half by railroad tracks so that's an issue we want to discuss.
- We will discuss a development proposal for office building 8711 Georgia Avenue which is just north of Cameron on the eastside of Georgia Avenue. There is a parking lot between two office buildings and this is an infill office development project.

The Neighborhood Committee

Alan Bowser reported that:

Neighborhoods Committee met on October 17, 2005, 7:00 P.M. – Silver Spring Regional Center

Attending: Alan Bowser, Victor Salazar, Charlotte Coffield, Joe Fisher, Mary Cogan, Sally Gagne, Zakiya Kainu, Jerry Yokoyama, Wayne Goldstein, Carol Richardson, Martha Waddy, Graciela Jaschek, Korey Hartwich, Lt. Don Johnson, Eric Hensel, Richard Helfrich, Mel Tull.

Report on October 10, 2005 SSCAB Meeting. Alan Bowser reported that the County Executive had recommended a \$5.3 million increase in funding for the Silver Spring Civic Building & Veterans Plaza. The recommendation will be included in the FY07-FY12 Capital Improvement Budget, subject to Council approval next year. He said that the community's email messages and telephone calls to the Executive and the Council in support of the project were very effective.

Eric Hensal reported on a recent meeting of the Silver Spring Town Center, Inc. (SSTCI), the non-profit entity established to assist in the programming and management of the Civic Building. He said that the group was still considering options for the nature and extent of its participation in the management of the Civic Building. One of the group's concern was ensuring that there would be appropriate building maintenance as some local businesses would like to use the Civic Building for special events.

Public Safety. District 3 Lt. Don Johnson reported on public safety and crime issues, and responded to questions about individual neighborhood concerns. No trends or clusters were noted in the area. Gang issues were also reported to be quiet in the area. Lt. Johnson noted that gang information is now available on the County's website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov. Then click on: Departments/Police/Divisions/Crime updates or <http://gangs.umd.edu/> or <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/poltmp1.asp?url=/content/POL/ask/districtStations.asp>.

Rick Helfrich (DHHS) provided information from a recent memo from Kate Garvey about gangs, including available grants.

Victor Salazar reported on the 'Public Forum On Youth Violence' to be held on November 5 under the sponsorship of the SSCAB and Montgomery County Council of PTAs. He proposed a letter to the County Executive in support of funding for a program called the Blair High School Sports Academy in which students who are not academically eligible to participate in after school activities (GPA less than 2.0) would be offered academic support with an athletics component. Victor said it is not clear how the program will be run, probably by a not-for-profit organization. Motion for approval by the group: Alan Bowser/Martha Waddy: passed unanimously.

Alan Bowser stated that the Neighborhoods Committee had two letters in the packet that the Committee was submitting for full SSCAB approval on pages 19 and 20 of your packet. The letter on page 19 goes to the issue of Funding the Blair High School Academy and Prevention of Youth Violence and Gang Activity. I asked Gary Stith for points of clarification with the understanding that the Council had passed a special supplemental to fund the Blair High School Academy.

Gary Stith responded that he had heard Council was taking this up but did not know what the action was.

Alan Bowser stated that it was his understanding that Council passed this at a meeting a week to ten days ago so he suggested language changes would be to remove the part in the letter that discusses the Council Resolution so this is a friendly amendment.

Motion: (Vazquez, Coffield) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed to send a letter to the County Executive on Funding the Blair High School Sports Academy and Prevention of Youth Violence and Gang Activity. (*See informational material for finalized letter*).

Invasive Plants. Sally Gagne from Friends of Sligo Creek provided a follow-up report on progress with invasive plants in county parks. The Parks Department/Div. of Natural Resource Management has drafted a plan: the Non-Native Invasive Plant Management Plan. It outlines a strategy to prioritize areas to work on, for education, and ways to measure success. She recommended support for county funding of the plant management and public education components. In order to reclaim some of the prioritized areas already overrun by invasive plants, she specifically recommends the addition of four new positions to constitute a specific crew, trained and certified to use the proper chemicals, to focus on invasive plants. Ms. Gagne also pointed out that a dozen (12) maintenance staff positions have been held vacant for two years, and recommends full funding and re-staffing to be able to handle more of the work on invasive plants during the growing season. Motion to draft a support letter for consideration, for distribution and review: passed unanimously.

Motion: (Bowser, Seitz) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed to write a letter of support to Chairman Berlage, Montgomery County Planning Board on invasive plants. (*See Informational Materials for finalized Letter*).

Public Health. Richard Helrich from the County's Department of Health and Human Services provided a presentation on public health resources in the Silver Spring area. He described programs and locations for the county's effort to provide health care for residents who do not have their own health care coverage. The County has established partnerships with eight groups to provide clinic services in appropriate language and cultural settings. These connections serve as outreach mechanisms into the various language communities.

Long Branch Development – Washington Adventist Hospital Building. On behalf of the Sligo-Branview Civic Association, Mary Cogan, President, presented the community concern that the CAB had moved too soon to support the WAH building. Ms. Cogan reported that the seventeen property owners across the Flower Ave and Arliss Street had not been officially contacted or informed by the hospital, the developer, or the land owner. The community has concerns about the four story building, and the concept design illustration of a façade that would be too high-tech and glossy for the neighborhood, increased vehicle traffic, and what activities will go on in the building. She is concerned that the building design is not a good transition from residential to commercial, and whether the shopping center owner will proceed with piecemeal development or the county has a comprehensive plan for Long Branch.

Alan Bowser reported that on November 5 the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board and the Montgomery County Council Parent Teachers Association co-sponsored a Community Leaders Forum on Youth Violence and Gangs at the Sligo Middle School. Victor Salazar took the idea

and turned it into a reality and since the program was successful I have asked Victor Salazar to comment on it for a second to the board.

Victor Salazar the November 5th event was very successful and I would like to thank each of you for taking the Save the Day flyer and sending it out to the various list servers. We had over 100 people show up to include the Director of External Affairs from Lt. Governor Steele's office, staff members came from Paul Sarbanes office and a whole lot of potential candidates that are running for office. We met our goal to get the information out. Congressman Chris VanHollen lead off with Council President, Tom Perez. We had Kate Garvey, representing Health and Human Service and the new Gang Prevention Coordinator Luis Cardona.

Next we had a presentation by Montgomery County Police Department and they talked about gangs and the impact on the 3rd District and how Montgomery County Public Schools are integrating there effort with Montgomery County Police to stem the tide of youth violence this presentation was made by Ed Clark. The meeting concluded with breakout and facilitated sessions by MPCS Study Circles. We are now in the process of taking the results of the discussion and formulating a finalized report to share with the various agencies as to what the community member felt the presentations actually hit or missed the mark and how we could better communicate with families and members of the community.

Approximately 110 to 120 people attended representing over 2,000 homes and 10,000 student families. The goal was to bring leaders in so they could take information back to there communities. We are being contacted because other Community associations want to have a similar type of program in there own community. PRESCO specifically has asked for support on doing something on December 18. I think for the Board raising a level of consciousness and people knowing we are out there and trying to be relevant and out front on the issues I think we succeeded in that particular endeavor.

Alan Bowser thanked members of board that came out on November 5, Debbie Spielberg, Jose Vazquez, Graciela Jaschek, Mark Woodard, Charlotte Coffield, along with Victor Salazar and myself.

Transportation & Pedestrian Safety Committee

Jose Vazquez reported that:

October 26, 2005 7:30 P.M. – Silver Spring Regional Center

Attending: Jose Vazquez, Phil Olivetti, Gary Stith and Shri Gondhaleker

Silver Spring Bus Stop Relocation: – Shri Gondhaleker (MC/DPWT) briefed the committee on the temporary relocation of the bus stops while the Silver Spring Transit Center is being constructed. The majority of the Metro buses will be relocated from the transit center to Wayne Ave. between Ramsey and Dixon. A few stops will be relocated to Dixon. Ride-On buses will be relocated to Bonifant, under the covered area.

As part of the relocation there will be improvements to the lighting in the area as well as new covered sidewalks (Dixon to the Metro entrance) and in the areas near the construction site (Prospect) covered temporary sidewalks. The Kiss and Ride will to the Dixon garage.

Mr. Gondhaleker also discussed the road improvements needed prior to relocation as well as bus circulation to and from the temporary site. The committee requested that he return in Jan./Feb. to brief us on these last issues.

On the point of the covered sidewalks I want to point out that was an issue that the Transportation Committee had a couple of months ago and if you have traveled on Cameron between Fenton and Spring you will see in front of the old bowling alley there has been some covered sidewalks installed as well as United Therapeutic has part of there project covered.

Next Meeting: The Transportation & Pedestrian Safety Committee will not meet in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

The next meeting will be on December 14, a joint meeting with Commercial Economic Development (CED). Rick Siebert, Chief of Parking Operations will come to the special Joint meeting to discuss the Parking Needs Analysis for the Silver Spring Parking Lot District (PLD).

Gary Stith explained the Parking Lot District, (PLD) operates the public parking facilities in downtown Silver Spring and it is basically all of the CBD excluding a section of the CBD that was taken out in 1982 north of Colesville and west of the railroad tracks.

There will be a Metropolitan Trail Public Meeting hosted by Department of Public Works and Transportation, (DPWT) on November 22 from 6:00 -9:00 p.m. at Park and Planning. This meeting is a part of DPWT facilities planning process.

Gary Stith stated that the buses will be moved before the constructions starts at the Transit Center and right now I think they will start work on the interim facilities probably fall 2006 and as Jose Vazquez pointed out they are going to put in some new streetlights, traffic signals to manage traffic around the area and bus shelters so there is some construction work that will have to happen around the area and you will see that first before transit center construction starts they will transfer all the bus operations over to those streets, Wayne, Dixon and Bonifant.

Jose Vazquez announced that there will be a Bi-County Transitway Community Focus Group which is open to the public but it is specifically for the CSX crossing in the Rosemary Hills and Woodside area where the project will be crossing the CSX railroad. The meeting is November 15 at the Gwendolyn Coffield Center, 7-9 p.m.

Election of Officer

Korey Hartwich, Vice Parliamentary Chair announced that the current Chair, Robert Hicks resigned from the Board and therefore the board will vote to elect a new Chair. In the event that Debbie Spielberg current Vice Chair is elected to be Chair we will also have to elect another Vice Chair.

On pages 26 and 27 there is a brief memo that discusses nomination and elections. The candidates for office will have 3 minutes to state there case of why they believe they are qualified, experience and what they are going do etc.

After that Board members will have an opportunity to ask each candidate some questions. We will also take nomination from the floor. We have two nominations for Chair and they are Debbie Spielberg and Alan Bowser.

Both nominees gave a brief overview of their leadership, experience and involvement and what they would continue to work on with the Board and Community if elected as Chair.

The board members ask each candidate questions and receive ballots

The first time the ballots were counted the vote ended in a tie. After a second ballot and recount Debbie Spielberg was officially elected the new Chair of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board. **Effective date 11/14/05.**

Phil Olivetti and Victor Salazar both nominees for Vice Chair gave a brief overview of their leadership, experience and involvement and what they would continue to work on if elected as Vice Chair.

Jon Lourie nominated Alan Bowser as Vice Chair and he declined.

The board members ask each candidate questions, ballots were distributed and counted and Victor Salazar was officially elected the new Vice Chair of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board. **Effective date 11/14/05.**

Membership Committee

Gary Stith reported that an Adhoc Membership Committee was needed to conduct interviews for the potential applicants that would be applying for the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board. It will take a commitment of time. I would like to suggest, Saturday, December 10 as the date for the interviews so we can get the recommendation to the County Executive before the holidays. The term actually ends in February 2006. There are three members up for re-appointment Debbie, Jerry and Korey and they do not have to be interviewed. Anyone being reappointed can not be on the Adhoc Membership Committee. I need three people to volunteer and I will also serve on the Committee as the staff person to it. Jon Lourie can not be re-appointed because he has served on the SSCAB for two terms. Actually we have three vacant seats.

Debbie Spielberg asked why someone that is being reappointed can not serve on the Membership Committee because it is not in the Bylaws.

Muriel Bowser responded that it is her understanding that even though the people are being reappointed the Membership Committee recommends their reappointment. Therefore they can not be a part of the decision.

Membership Committee Volunteers

The following Board members agreed to be on the Membership Committee to conduct interviews for potential applicants. Marilyn Seitz, Kathy Stevens, Phil Olivetti, Victor Salazar and Eric Hensal.

Presentation of Bylaw Amendments

Korey Hartwich reported that the SSCAB Bylaws state that in order to amend them we have to present amendments at one meeting and vote at another meeting to give you time to look at them we will not be having a lengthy discussion of the bylaws this evening. If members of the board have pertinent questions you can bring them up now but it is probably better to look them over and ask your questions outside if we can so we do not have to involve everyone in it. I will go over a few important points assuming that you all agree to a motion to waive the reading of the

amendments. The amendments are extensive and if you don't waive the reading we will be here for at least one hour and I am not sure why this is in our bylaws but it states we have to read them. So I am going to ask that there be no objections to my motion and a second that we waive the reading and I will explain the most important points.

Motion: (Hartwich, Mitch) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed to waive the reading of the amendments to the bylaws and that only pertinent parts and major changes would be explained..

Jon Lourie asked if there was a Committee for the recommended changes.

Korey Hartwich responded yes there was a Committee that included Victor Salazar, Marilyn Seitz, Alan Bowser and me. I should be clear that we did not meet in person and there was not a final vote of approval from the Committee. What you see here are my proposed changes. A large percentage of the changes to the bylaws come from the County Attorney's Office.

The major goal of this process was to clarify and simplify the bylaws. There are a number of things that are unclear that leave the possibility for problems in meeting so that is the major goal of this revision. On page 48 of your board packet there is a memorandum from the Associate County Attorney who at our request reviewed the current bylaws. Most of his comments are about removing large sections of our bylaws because they are either inappropriate to bylaws or restated something that was already contained in County Regulation or law those things at his suggestion will be in a guideline memorandum that I will write once this is all finished. I will be happy to take other input so future members will have an idea of what the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board goals, and membership entail. This is the first and most important change. The second big thing that people will have a lot of questions about and has not been resolved as yet is the polling discussion. In the past if we could not cover something in a meeting or something comes up quickly before the next meeting we had informal votes via e-mail or telephone. We now understand that this contravenes the Maryland Open Meeting Act so we will no longer be polling via e-mail or telephone. I understand from the County Attorney that if necessary we can take an informal feel of the board which we are not suppose to state in writing but if someone said what does the board think about X,Y,Z we can do a poll and we can say well I can not tell you definitively because we have not had an official vote. If someone has another suggestion that would not violate the Open Meeting Act please let me know.

Several members requested rules be added and I will discuss all of them because you can see them in the draft document before you.

Jon Lourie stated that he appreciated Korey Hartwich attention to detail but was having a hard time understanding the sidebar edits.

Korey Hartwich agreed that he would make the suggested changes to the document to make it more reader friendly and send it out to members via e-mail.

Debbie Spielberg reiterated that the board had one month to review the amended bylaws and would take a vote to adopt them at the next meeting.

Korey Hartwich asked if possible to bring changes to him as a friendly amendment first so he can have the opportunity to add them in and send it out to everyone as his final version rather than voting on every amendment to my suggestions. I think we need 2/3 vote to actually adopt the entire package. As we go through if you want to amend my motion which is the whole thing if it not a friendly motion than all you need is a majority. I will present this entire document as a motion and as we discuss it if you want to make a motion about changing certain parts it would be an amendment to my original motion.

Jose Vazquez asked Korey Hartwich about Article I. Purpose it states that the Board will also serve as advocates for the communities in the service area yet we deleted the service area.

Korey Hartwich stated yes that the County Attorney requested that we remove the service area from our bylaws because the Board does not have the right to define our service area and it is covered by County Regulations so it is in the memorandum. The old copy of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Bylaws is on page 52 but immediately following that is a memo from me in draft form all the items that were pulled out. In answer to your question is the region is defined in the memo because we can not do it in our bylaws.

Mark Woodard suggested that Korey Hartwich do a summary that incorporates all of the changes and that will clarify what your intent is and make it much easier to read all changes.

Korey Hartwich stated that he would try to summarize major amendments. We are not required to get permission before we amend the bylaws from the County Attorney. After it is completed the County Attorney does have to sign off on it. Gary Stith stated that the polling may be a problem so I requested that the County Attorney look at it as a courtesy and he has only looked at the old bylaws and we are not required as I am aware to give the bylaws to the County Attorney for proofing. The County Attorney will receive a copy of the new version to review and advise us if anything written is illegal.

Phil Olivetti stated that the last time we amended the bylaws the County Attorney received a copy for review.

Korey Hartwich stated that he had done a review of about five sets of County Bylaws that all other Advisory Board and there were things that the County Attorney said should not be in bylaws so therefore my guess is the County Attorney does not regularly check on things like this.

Alan Bowser asked if anyone would be interested in placing this on the listserve? There are several things that I would suggest big picture issues about the bylaws and I do not know if we will have time at the meeting in December to really discuss these issues in detail and if we could get some type of consensus in advance it just may be helpful and there are items that are not in the current amendments.

Korey Hartwich stated that Alan Bowser had a list of suggestions and many were incorporated and some of them were not.

Jon Lourie stated that he thought it would be beneficial to have suggestions discussed prior to the December meeting so we all have a change to review them.

Korey Hartwich agreed and asked that members be very clear as to what they are referring to such as article, section number and whether it is the new or old version. If you want to make an amendment to the wording it is up to you to come up with it.

Phil Olivetti from my understanding this has to be on the table for 30 days therefore if someone proposes a new amendment we can consider that amendment for another 30 days.

Korey Hartwich stated that if people would like to discuss the amended bylaws at the December meeting and be prepared to vote at the January meeting that would be fine.

Debbie Spielberg stated that she thought what Korey Hartwich was saying is that if there are upcoming amendments that are significantly different that are proposed you would suggest that we table the actual vote for one more month. The intention is to have a discussion within the next month on the list serve if people have major issue please be as clear as possible in that discussion and when we meet in December if there are major amendments to Korey proposed bylaw amendment there will be discussion and tabled until January's meeting.

Director

Gary Stith reported that:

- The Thanksgiving parade is Saturday, November 19 at 9:30 a.m. and the best we have ever had. It is being televised by Channel 8 with four cameras. There is also an opportunity for board members to volunteer to help with balloons. If interested in volunteering you will need to be here at 7:00 in the morning.
- Park and Planning is putting out a Request for Qualifications to developers on their Silver Place Project. Silver Place will be for Park and Planning's new office building and mix use project for residential development. Park and Planning want to add a development of 120 thousands square foot office building so they can consolidate all there operations in one building versus now being in several places and the rest of the site will be developed for residential development so it would be a mix-use public and private partnership project at there current site. They will do a two step process, first requesting qualifications from developers and than develop a short list of three or four developers to actual submit a proposal for the project so that will be coming up over the next couple of months.
- Through the Department of Housing and Community Affairs we have submitted an application to the State of Maryland for designation of Priority Place for the Long Branch Area and what this does is if the Long Branch Area is designated they would have a committee from different departments of state government to work with us and it would give us priority review of any approvals we would have to get from the State for environmental issues or other issue and give us priority with funding assistance from the State through various state programs so we are very hopeful that we will get that designation. There are only four places in the State that are designated that way now and we hope Long Branch will be designated as well so it would help us with the effort we are doing there.
- We are in the process of interviewing applicants for Long Branch Advisory Committee and the application period closed several weeks ago and we are doing the interviews now and recommendation go to County Executive and we are hopeful that the County

Executive will forward his nominations to Council before the holiday and Council will take it up early in January and we can actually get the new Long Branch Advisory Committee functioning in late January or the latest February.

- Applications for the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board are open until November 21. If you know of anyone you'd like to encourage to be on the board there is still time to have them send in a resume and letter of interest to the County Executive.